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In *Cincinnati Publications* No. 18, the proper motion of this star is given as  $0''.44$  in  $173^{\circ}.1$ , and the agreement of the two results is satisfactory proof of the independence of the small star.

The measures of the close pair point to rapid orbital motion and a relatively short revolution period. Since Hough did not note the pair in 1892 when he discovered the distant companion it is probable that the angular distance then was smaller than it is now. The rapid orbital motion as well as the large proper motion makes it probable that the system is among the nearest stars and suggests that its parallax may be measurable by direct methods.

ROBERT G. AITKEN.

March, 1919.

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#### THE DOMINION ASTROPHYSICAL OBSERVATORY

From an article in the *Daily Colonist*, Victoria, B. C., we learn that Mr. W. E. Harper, M. A., "has assumed his duties as astronomer and chief assistant to Dr. J. S. Plaskett," at the Dominion Astrophysical Observatory. The article also states that Captain H. H. Plaskett has received an appointment as observer for the same observatory. Captain Plaskett is at present in England taking a postgraduate course at the Imperial College of Science, London. He has been overseas since April, 1917, having enlisted at Toronto in April, 1916, while attending the university. To quote further, "The activity of Dr. J. S. Plaskett and Dr. Young in the intervening time [since April 28, 1918] is evidenced by the fact that up to date they have obtained no less than 1850 spectra. . . ."

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#### THE NEW CHABOT OBSERVATORY

The Oakland City Board of Education has appropriated the money needed to complete the building for the new Chabot Observatory at Leona Heights. The dome for the new 20-inch telescope and a shelter for the transit instrument and the clocks were completed, and the instruments installed, early in 1916. The present appropriation will provide a dome for the 8-inch equatorial now at the old observatory, and a building, for offices, library and reception room, connecting the two domes. This will give the Oakland School Department the finest astronomical observatory possessed by any city in this country. Mr. Charles Burckhalter, the director of the observatory, in addition to his personal researches in astronomy, has led thousands of young people to take an interest in the

stars. Every school child in the city has the opportunity to visit the observatory, look thru the telescope, and learn from Mr. Burckhalter something of the Moon, the Sun, the planets and the stars. If work of this character were carried out in all our schools we should not have *school teachers* exclaim at the sight of *Jupiter* thru the telescope, as one did at the Lick Observatory, "Why! Is that a star? I thought all stars had five points!"

R. G. A.

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HONORARY ELECTIONS TO ACADEMIES

Professor George E. Hale, Director of the Mount Wilson Observatory, has been elected a Foreign Associate in the Paris Academy of Sciences, in succession to Dr. A. von Bayer.

Dr. H. D. Curtis, Astronomer in the Lick Observatory, and Dr. F. H. Seares, astronomer in the Mount Wilson Observatory, have been elected to membership in the National Academy of Sciences.

Dr. R. G. Aitken has been elected to membership in the American Philosophical Society.

W. W. C.

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APPOINTMENTS IN THE LICK OBSERVATORY

Mr. Charles Morse Huffer has been appointed Assistant Astronomer for service at our branch observatory on Cerro San Cristobal, Santiago, Chile.

Mr. C. D. Shane, Mr. H. M. Jeffers, Miss Edith E. Cummings, and Miss Priscilla Fairfield have been appointed University Fellows in the Lick Observatory for the academic year 1919-20.

Dr. Robert J. Trumpler, at present Assistant in the Allegheny Observatory, has been appointed to the Martin Kellogg Fellowship in the Lick Observatory for the next academic year.

W. W. C.